

REMARKS

Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.121, a "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE" is enclosed, following these remarks.

Claims 1-24 are pending and stand finally rejected. Claims 1, 10, 13, and 22 are amended herein and claims 26 and 27 are added herein.

Claims 1-3, 10-15, and 22-24 stand finally rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,875,871 to Booty, Sr. *et al.* (Booty).

In response thereto, claims 1 and 13 have each been amended to recite a *channel-like pleated body*. Support for this amendment can be found in paragraph 20 of applicant's specification. Booty does not expressly or inherently describe such a structure. Booty merely describes a prewired connector having a closed corrugated section made of plastic (column 12, lines 60-68) that is capable of flexing or articulation.

In addition, Booty does not expressly describe that its prewired connector can be manually lengthened or manually shortened as claimed. Moreover, it is doubtful that the wires affixed within the Booty connector would allow lengthening or shortening of the connector.

Claims 2, 3, 10-12, 14, 15, and 22-24 recite of features not expressly or inherently described in Booty. For example, Booty does not describe any textured exterior or interior surfaces. The corrugated section of Booty's prewired connector can not be used to meet both elements of applicant's claims.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the 35 USC 102(b) rejection is respectfully urged.

Claims 4-9 and 16-21 stand finally rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Booty in view of U.S. Patent 5,789,064 to Valente *et al.* (Valente).

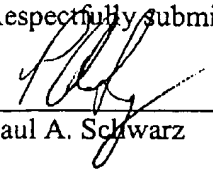
As argued above, Booty does not describe a connector having a channel-like pleated body or a connector that can be manually lengthened or manually shortened as called for in each of claims 4-9 and 16-21. Valente fails to cure the deficiencies of Booty as it merely teaches a plastic composition with electromagnetic absorbing and shielding properties. Thus, Booty in view of Valente fail to teach or suggest the subject matter of claims 4-9 and 16-21.

Furthermore, the examiner has provided no motivation for making the connector in Booty from the composition described in Valente. Only applicant's disclosure teaches that it is desirable to make a connector for a wire and cable enclosure system from a plastic composition with electromagnetic absorbing and shielding properties.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the 35 USC 103(a) rejection using Booty in view of Valente is respectfully urged.

No fee is believed to be due on account of the enclosed communication. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fees which may be required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2061.

Respectfully submitted,


Paul A. Schwarz

Duane Morris LLP
100 College Road West, Suite 100
Princeton, New Jersey 08540
(609) 919-4408
(609) 919-4401 - facsimile

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The following marked-up claims correspond to the replacement claims of this amendment.

1.(TWICE AMENDED) A connector for connecting elongated enclosures of a wire and cable enclosure system, the connector comprising:

a manually bendable channel-like pleated body having first and second ends, the pleated body including a plurality of pleats which fold into and out of one another;

B1 a first coupling member extending from the first end of the body, the first coupling member for attaching one of the elongated enclosures to the connector; and

a second coupling member extending from the second end of the body, the second coupling member for attaching another one of the elongated enclosures to the connector;

wherein the pleated body allows the connector to be manually bent from side-to-side, manually bent from front-to-back, manually lengthened, or manually shortened to provide a desired configuration.

B2 10.(AMENDED) The connector according to claim [3] 26, wherein at least one of the body and coupling members defines a textured surface which increases electromagnetic shielding.

13.(TWICE AMENDED) A wire and cable enclosure system comprising:

elongated enclosures; and

B3 a connector comprising:

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a manually bendable channel-like pleated body having first and second ends, the pleated body including a plurality of pleats which fold into and out of one another;

a first coupling member extending from the first end of the body, the first coupling member for attaching one of the elongated enclosures to the connector; and

a second coupling member extending from the second end of the body, the second coupling member for attaching another one of the elongated enclosures to the connector;

wherein the pleated body allows the connector to be manually bent from side-to-side, manually bent from front-to-back, manually lengthened or, manually shortened to provide a desired configuration.

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22.(AMENDED) The enclosure system according to claim [15] 27, wherein at least the connector defines a textured surface which increases electromagnetic shielding.
